



CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20505

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

The Honorable F. Edward Hebert
Chairman, Committee on Armed Services
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C. 20515

My dear Mr. Chairman:

This is in response to your letter of 16 February 1971 requesting the views and recommendations of this Agency concerning H. R. 3578, a bill "To establish a Temporary National Security Commission."

While this Agency has no objection to continuing scrutiny and oversight on the part of the Congress, it believes the creation of the proposed Commission is a matter for determination by the Congress. Therefore, this Agency offers no comment in this regard.

Should the bill receive favorable consideration by the Committee, however, I would respectfully request the opportunity to discuss with you certain problems regarding the protection of intelligence sources and methods, for which I am responsible under the National Security Act of 1947.

The Office of Management and Budget advises that there is no objection to the submission of this report from the standpoint of the Administration's program.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Richard Helms".

Richard Helms
Director

The Honorable F. Edward Hebert
Chairman, Committee on Armed Services
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C. 20515

My dear Mr. Chairman:

This is in response to your letter of 16 February 1971 requesting the views and recommendations of this Agency concerning H. R. 3578, a bill "To establish a Temporary National Security Commission."

While this Agency has no objection to continuing scrutiny and oversight on the part of the Congress it believes that extensive and adequate machinery already exists to permit the recurring scrutiny of the objectives, organization, procedures, and interactions of those agencies constituting the national security establishment. The several congressional committees, Government Accounting Office, Office of Management and Budget, President's Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board, and Defense Program Review Committee, regularly examine and act upon findings in the areas of national security which the proposed Commission would study.

Should the bill receive favorable consideration by the Committee, however, I would respectfully request the opportunity to discuss with you certain problems regarding the protection of intelligence sources and methods, for which I am responsible under the National Security Act of 1947.

[In view of the above, the Central Intelligence Agency does not favor enactment of H. R. 3578.] The Office of Management and Budget advises that there is no objection to the submission of this report from the standpoint of the Administration's program.

Respectfully,

Richard Helms
Director



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The Honorable F. Edward Hebert
Chairman, Committee on Armed Services
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C. 20515

My dear Mr. Chairman:

This is in response to your letter of 16 February 1971 requesting the views and recommendations of this Agency concerning H. R. 3578, a bill "To establish a Temporary National Security Commission."

While this Agency has no objection to continuing scrutiny and oversight of its activities by the Congress, we believe that extensive and adequate machinery already exists to permit the close examination of this Agency's objectives, organization, procedures, and interactions with other agencies constituting the national security establishment. In addition to the oversight which is exercised by congressional committees, the National Security Council, Office of Management and Budget, and the President's Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board regularly examine and act upon findings in the areas of national security concerning the Agency which the Commission would study under the proposed legislation.

Should the bill receive favorable consideration by the Committee, however, I would respectfully request the opportunity to discuss with you certain problems regarding the protection of intelligence sources and methods, for which I am responsible under the National Security Act of 1947.

In view of the above, the Central Intelligence Agency does not favor enactment of H. R. 3578. The Office of Management and Budget advises that there is no objection to the submission of this report from the standpoint of the Administration's program.

Respectfully,

Richard Helms
Director

ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

SUBJECT: (Optional)
Agency Views on a Bill "To Establish a Temporary National Security Commission"

FROM: Office of Legislative Counsel
EXTENSION
NO.
DATE

TO: (Officer designation, room number, and building)
DATE
RECEIVED
FORWARDED
OFFICER'S INITIALS
COMMENTS (Number each comment to show from whom to whom. Draw a line across column after each comment.)

1. Deputy Director for Plans 3 C 34 Hqs.			
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Reference: Memorandum for Director from OLC, dated 6 April 1971, Subject as above.

OMB has objected to our original proposed report (Tab A). OMB and DOD have taken the position that the Bill duplicates existing machinery in the Executive Branch. OMB recommends the Agency take a similar position against the Bill and suggests language which is bracketed in Tab B.

The language suggested by OMB was revised by this office to more properly confine the Agency's comments to its own interests and responsibilities. This further revision is Tab C.

Your comments on submitting Tab C to the Director for signature would be appreciated at the earliest date.

[Redacted Signature Box]

JOHN M. MAURY
Legislative Counsel

cc: D/DCI/NIPE
DDS
OGC

ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

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COMMENTS (Number each comment to show from whom to whom. Draw a line across column after each comment.)

1. D/DCI/NIPE
7 E 22 Hqs.

29/6

Jan 1

Reference: Memorandum for Director from OLC, dated 6 April 1971, Subject as above.

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D/OLC

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OMB has objected to our original proposed report (Tab A). OMB and DOD have taken the position that the Bill duplicates existing machinery in the Executive Branch. OMB recommends the Agency take a similar position against the Bill and suggests language which is bracketed in Tab B.

The language suggested by OMB was revised by this office to more properly confine the Agency's comments to its own interests and responsibilities. This further revision is Tab C.

Your comments on submitting Tab C to the Director for signature would be appreciated at the earliest date.

JOHN M. MAURY
Legislative Counsel

cc: DDP
DDS
OGC

1-3 - your language seems to me an improvement

STAT

STAT

25X1

ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

SUBJECT: (Optional)
Agency Views on a Bill "To Establish a Temporary National Security Commission"

FROM: Office of Legislative Counsel		EXTENSION	NO. DATE		
TO: (Officer designation, room number, and building)	DATE <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; text-align: center; border-bottom: 1px solid black;">RECEIVED</td> <td style="width: 50%; text-align: center; border-bottom: 1px solid black;">FORWARDED</td> </tr> </table>	RECEIVED	FORWARDED	OFFICER'S INITIALS	COMMENTS (Number each comment to show from whom to whom. Draw a line across column after each comment.)
RECEIVED	FORWARDED				
1. General Counsel 7 D 01 Hqs.	6/29/71	6/29/71	JLPs Reference: Memorandum for Director from OLC, dated 6 April 1971, Subject as above.		
2. OLC			<p>OMB has objected to our original proposed report (Tab A). OMB and DOD have taken the position that the Bill duplicates existing machinery in the Executive Branch. OMB recommends the Agency take a similar position against the Bill and suggests language which is bracketed in Tab B.</p> <p>The language suggested by OMB was revised by this office to more properly confine the Agency's comments to its own interests and responsibilities. This further revision is Tab C.</p> <p>Your comments on submitting Tab C to the Director for signature would be appreciated at the earliest date.</p>		
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JOHN M. MAURY
Legislative Counsel

cc: D/DCI/NIPE
DDP
DDS

1-2 Concur.

ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

SUBJECT: (Optional)
Agency Views on a Bill "To Establish a Temporary National Security Commission"

FROM: Office of Legislative Counsel

EXTENSION

NO.

DATE

DD/S 71-2567

TO: (Officer designation, room number, and building)

DATE

OFFICER'S INITIALS

COMMENTS (Number each comment to show from whom to whom. Draw a line across column after each comment.)

1. Deputy Director for Support
7 D 26 Hqs.

RECEIVED

FORWARDED

1 JUL 1971

MS

Reference: Memorandum for Director from OLC, dated 6 April 1971, Subject as above.

OMB has objected to our original proposed report (Tab A). OMB and DOD have taken the position that the Bill duplicates existing machinery in the Executive Branch. OMB recommends the Agency take a similar position against the Bill and suggests language which is bracketed in Tab B.

The language suggested by OMB was revised by this office to more properly confine the Agency's comments to its own interests and responsibilities. This further revision is Tab C.

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JOHN M. MAURY
Legislative Counsel

cc: D/DCI/NIPE
DDP
OGC

IF "A" IS NOT ACCEPTABLE, "C" CERTAINLY IS BETTER THAN "B"